F.O. 541/42

TREATIES.

GREAT BRITAIN AND CONGO CHIEFS ON WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

of Africa,

uth Bank of the

d Ireland, &c., &c.,
ing authority on the
raffic in Slaves, for
f Lawful Commerce,
British, and for the
order of the River.

WETT, K.C.B., V.C.,
oast of Africa, on the
&c., and the principal
hose names are here-
cessors, have agreed

d in the territories of
hereto, do, for them-
a law prohibiting any
of their dependents or any person within their jurisdiction, from selling or assisting in the sale of any slaves for transportation to a foreign country, and the Chiefs who are parties hereto promise to inflict a severe punishment on any person who shall break this law.

ARTICLE II.

No European or other person whatever shall be permitted to reside within the territories of the Chiefs who are parties hereto, or of their heirs or successors, for the purpose of carrying on in any way the traffic in slaves; and no houses, stores, or buildings of any kind whatever shall be erected for the purpose of the Slave Trade within the territories of the Chiefs who are parties hereto, or of their heirs or successors; and if any such houses, stores, or buildings shall at any future time be erected, and the Chiefs who are parties hereto, or their heirs or successors, fail or find themselves unable to destroy them, they may be destroyed by any British Officers employed for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

ARTICLE III.

If at any time it shall appear that the Slave Trade has been carried on through or from the territories of the Chiefs who are parties hereto, the Slave Trade may be put down by force upon those territories; and British officers may seize the boats of the

TREATIES with Congo Chiefs on West Coast of Africa.—March, 1876.

ENGAGEMENT between Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, &c., &c., and the Principal Chiefs (whose names hereafter appear) holding authority on the South Bank of the River Congo; for the Abolition of the Traffic in Slaves; for the Prevention of Human Sacrifices; for the Encouragement of Lawful Commerce; for the Protection of all White Traders, more particularly British; and for the Punishment of all Pirates and Disturbers of the Peace and good order of the River.—March 27, 1876

COMMODORE Sir William Nathan Wrighte Hewett, K.C.B., V.C., Commanding Her Britannic Majesty's Naval Forces on the West Coast of Africa, on the part of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, &c., &c., and the principal Chiefs holding authority on the South Bank of the River Congo, whose names are hereunto subscribed, on the part of themselves, their heirs and successors, have agreed upon the following Articles, viz.:

ART. I. The export of slaves to foreign countries is for ever abolished in the territories of the Chiefs who are parties hereto; and the Chiefs who are parties hereto, do, for themselves, their heirs and successors, engage to make and proclaim a law prohibiting any of their dependents, or any person within their jurisdiction, from selling or assisting in the sale of any slaves for transportation to a foreign country, and the Chiefs who are parties hereto promise to inflict a severe punishment on any person who shall break this law.

II. No European or other person whatever shall be permitted to reside within the territories of the Chiefs who are parties hereto, or of their heirs or successors, for the purpose of carrying on in any way the traffic in slaves; and no houses, stores, or buildings of any kind whatever shall be erected for the purpose of the Slave Trade within the territories of the Chiefs who are parties hereto, or of their heirs or successors; and if any such houses, stores, or

buildings shall at any future time be erected, and the Chiefs who are parties hereto, or their heirs or successors, fail or find themselves unable to destroy them, they may be destroyed by any British officers employed for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

III. If at any time it shall appear that the Slave Trade has been carried on through or from the territories of the Chiefs who are parties hereto, the Slave Trade may be put down by force upon those territories; and British officers may seize the boats of the Chiefs who are parties hereto, or of their heirs and successors, found anywhere carrying on the Slave Trade; and the Chiefs who are parties hereto, their heirs and successors, will subject themselves to Her Britannic Majesty's severe displeasure.

IV. The subjects of Her Britannic Majesty and all white foreigners may always trade freely with the people of the Chiefs who are parties hereto, and of their heirs and successors, in every article they may wish to buy or sell, at any place whatever within their respective territories, and the Chiefs who are parties hereto, for themselves, their heirs, and successors, pledge themselves to show no favour and to give no privilege to the ships and traders of other countries which they do not show to those of Great Britain.

V. In the event of any British or other foreign vessel running aground in any part of the River Congo near to our respective territories, we, the Chiefs, who are parties hereto, faithfully promise for ourselves, our heirs, and successors, that we will in no way allow them to be interfered with under any pretence whatever, unless an application be made to us for assistance; and we do further faithfully promise that immediately we hear of any such vessel being on shore and in danger, we will communicate the intelligence to the nearest white settler.

VI. Should any British or other foreign vessel, being aground in the river, apply to us for assistance,* we, the Chiefs who are parties hereto, for ourselves, our heirs, and successors, most faithfully promise to render her individually all the help in our power, provided we are fairly paid for our trouble.

VII. Should the ships of British or other friendly traders be attacked by pirates or plunderers, we, the Chiefs who are parties hereto, for ourselves, our heirs, and successors, most faithfully promise assistance by sending our people with arms, and to do all in our power to punish the robbers.

VIII. If at any time a naval officer of Great Britain shall require guides or armed people from the Chiefs who are parties hereto, or their heirs and successors, to accompany the said officer

* N.B. ⋈. Mark put on copies given to chiefs to enable them to point out more readily to the master of a vessel in distress the conditions under which they are bound to render assistance.

on an expedition against pirates or other enemies of the Queen of Great Britain, &c., the Chiefs who are parties hereto, faithfully promise for themselves, their heirs, and successors to provide them.

IX. The Chiefs who are parties hereto, for themselves, their heirs, and successors, declare that no human beings shall be sacrificed on account of religious or other ceremonies; and that they will prevent the barbarous practice of murdering prisoners in war.

X. Missionaries or other Ministers of the Gospel are to be allowed to reside in the territories of the Chiefs who are parties hereto, their heirs, and successors, for the purpose of instructing the people in all useful occupations.

XI. And in consideration of these engagements all past offences of the Chiefs whose names are hereunto subscribed against the Queen of Great Britain, &c., are hereby given.

Concluded on board Her Majesty's ship *Active*, off Shark's Point in the River Congo, this 27th day of March, A.D. 1876.

Signed by the Contracting Parties.

W. N. W. HEWETT,
Commodore Commanding Her Britannic Majesty's Naval Forces on the West Coast of Africa.

Their	Their
⋊ KING PARKER.	⋊ POLO BOLO.
⋊ KING ASSAMBA.	⋊ 'M. PACA.
⋊ KING KALA.	⋊ NANTUDY.
marks.	marks.

Witnesses:

HENRY C. W. GIBSON, *Secretary to the Commodore.*
E. N. ROLFE, *Lieutenant, Her Majesty's ship* Active.

The following Articles to be considered as Additional Articles to our Treaty with Commodore Arthur Parry Eardley Wilmot, C.B., R.N., then commanding Her Britannic Majesty's Naval Forces on the West Coast of Africa, dated 1st June, 1865.—River Congo, March 27, 1876.

ART. I. In the event of any British or other foreign vessel running aground in any part of the River Congo near to our respective territories, we, the Chiefs whose names are hereunto subscribed, faithfully promise for ourselves, our heirs, and successors, that we will in no way allow them to be interfered with under any pretence whatever, unless an application be made to us for assistance; and we do further faithfully promise that immediately we hear of any such vessel being on shore and in danger, we will communicate the intelligence to the nearest white settler.

II. Should any British or other foreign vessel being aground in

the river apply to us for assistance,* we, the Chiefs whose names are hereunto subscribed, most faithfully promise to render her individually all the help in our power provided we are fairly paid for our trouble.

Agreed to on board Her Majesty's ship *Active*, lying off Shark's Point in the River Congo, on the 27th day of March, A.D. 1876, for ourselves and on behalf of Don Joa Franco Antonio the present King.

Their
⋈ DOMINGO, Antonio's brother.
⋈ 'M. BUINGO, Antonio's son.
marks.

In consideration of these engagements, all past offences of the above Chiefs against Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, &c., are hereby forgiven.

W. N. W. HEWETT,
Commodore Commanding Her Britannic Majesty's Ships on the West Coast of Africa. 27th March, 1876.

Witnesses:
HENRY C. W. GIBSON, *Secretary to Commodore.*
E. N. ROLFE, *Lieutenant, Her Majesty's ship* Active.

The following Articles to be considered as Additional Articles to our Treaty with Commodore Arthur Parry Eardley Wilmot, C.B., R.N., then commanding Her Britannic Majesty's Naval Forces on the West Coast of Africa, dated the 6th June, 1866.—River Congo, March 27, 1876.

ART. I. In the event of any British or other foreign vessel running aground in any part of the River Congo near to our respective territories, we, the Chiefs whose names are hereunto subscribed, faithfully promise for ourselves, our heirs, and successors that we will in no way allow them to be interfered with under any pretence whatever, unless an application be made to us for assistance; and we do further faithfully promise that immediately we hear of any such vessel being on shore and in danger, we will communicate the intelligence to the nearest white settler.

II. Should any British or other foreign vessel being aground in the river apply to us for assistance,* we, the Chiefs whose names are hereunto subscribed, most faithfully promise to render her individually all the help in our power, provided we are fairly paid for our trouble.

* N.B. ⋈. Mark put on copies given to chiefs to enable them to point out more readily to the master of a vessel in distress the conditions under which they are bound to render assistance.

Agreed to on board Her Majesty's ship *Active*, lying off Shark's Point in the River Congo, on the 27th day of March, A.D. 1876.

Their
⋈ KING PLENTY.
⋈ KING MEDORA.
⋈ CAPETA MEDORA.
marks.

In consideration of these engagements, all past offences of the above Chiefs against Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, &c., are hereby forgiven.

W. N. W. HEWETT,
Commodore Commanding Her Britannic Majesty's ships on the West Coast of Africa. 27th March, 1876.

Witnesses:

HENRY C. W. GIBSON, *Secretary to Commodore.*
E. N. ROLFE, *Lieutenant, Her Majesty's ship* Active.

F.O. 541/42

Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. August 1876.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(2928.)

TREATIES with Congo Chiefs on West Coast of Africa, 1876.

No. 1.

Engagements with the principal Chiefs holding Authority on the South Bank of the River Congo.—River Congo, March 27, 1876.

Engagement between Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, &c., &c., and the principal Chiefs (whose names hereafter appear) holding authority on the south bank of the River Congo, for the abolition of the Traffic in Slaves, for the Prevention of Human Sacrifices, for the encouragement of Lawful Commerce, for the Protection of all White Traders, more particularly British, and for the Punishment of all Pirates and disturbers of the peace and good order of the River.

COMMODORE SIR WILLIAM NATHAN WRIGHTE HEWETT, K.C.B., V.C., Commanding Her Britannic Majesty's naval forces on the West Coast of Africa, on the part of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, &c., &c., and the principal Chiefs holding authority on the south bank of the River Congo (whose names are hereunto subscribed), on the part of themselves, their heirs, and successors, have agreed upon the following Articles, viz.:—

ARTICLE I.

The export of slaves to foreign countries is for ever abolished in the territories of the Chiefs who are parties hereto; and the Chiefs who are parties hereto, do, for themselves, their heirs, and successors, engage to make and proclaim a law prohibiting any of their dependents or any person within their jurisdiction, from selling or assisting in the sale of any slaves for transportation to a foreign country, and the Chiefs who are parties hereto promise to inflict a severe punishment on any person who shall break this law.

ARTICLE II.

No European or other person whatever shall be permitted to reside within the territories of the Chiefs who are parties hereto, or of their heirs or successors, for the purpose of carrying on in any way the traffic in slaves; and no houses, stores, or buildings of any kind whatever shall be erected for the purpose of the Slave Trade within the territories of the Chiefs who are parties hereto, or of their heirs or successors; and if any such houses, stores, or buildings shall at any future time be erected, and the Chiefs who are parties hereto, or their heirs or successors, fail or find themselves unable to destroy them, they may be destroyed by any British Officers employed for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

ARTICLE III.

If at any time it shall appear that the Slave Trade has been carried on through or from the territories of the Chiefs who are parties hereto, the Slave Trade may be put down by force upon those territories; and British officers may seize the boats of the

Chiefs who are parties hereto, or of their heirs and successors, found anywhere carrying on the Slave Trade; and the Chiefs who are parties hereto, their heirs and successors, will subject themselves to Her Britannic Majesty's severe displeasure.

ARTICLE IV.

The subjects of Her Britannic Majesty, and all white foreigners, may always trade freely with the people of the Chiefs who are parties hereto, and of their heirs and successors, in every article they may wish to buy or sell, at any place whatever within their respective territories; and the Chiefs who are parties hereto, for themselves, their heirs, and successors, pledge themselves to show no favour, and to give no privilege, to the ships and traders of other countries which they do not show to those of Great Britain.

ARTICLE V.

In the event of any British or other foreign vessel running aground in any part of the River Congo near to our respective territories, We, the Chiefs who are parties hereto, faithfully promise, for ourselves, our heirs, and successors, that we will in no way allow them to be interfered with under any pretence whatever, unless an application be made to us for assistance; and we do further faithfully promise that, immediately we hear of any such vessel being on shore and in danger, we will communicate the intelligence to the nearest white settler.

ARTICLE VI.

Should any British or other foreign vessels, being aground in the river, apply to us for assistance, We, the Chiefs who are parties hereto, for ourselves, our heirs, and successors, most faithfully promise to render her individually all the help in our power, provided we are fairly paid for our trouble.

Mark put on copies given to Chiefs to enable them to point out more readily to the master of a vessel in distress the conditions under which they are bound to render assistance.

N.B.
×

ARTICLE VII.

Should the ships of British or other friendly traders be attacked by pirates or plunderers, We, the Chiefs who are parties hereto, for ourselves, our heirs, and successors, most faithfully promise assistance by sending our people with arms, and to do all in our power to punish the robbers.

ARTICLE VIII.

If at any time a naval officer of Great Britain shall require guides or armed people from the Chiefs who are parties hereto, or their heirs and successors, to accompany the said officer on an expedition against pirates or other enemies of the Queen of Great Britain, &c., the Chiefs who are parties hereto faithfully promise for themselves, their heirs, and successors, to provide them.

ARTICLE IX.

The Chiefs who are parties hereto, for themselves, th[illegible]irs and successors, declare that no human beings shall be sacrificed on account of r[illegible]ious or other ceremonies, and that they will prevent the barbarous practice of murderi[illegible] prisoners in war.

ARTICLE X.

Missionaries, or other Ministers of the Gospel, are to b[illegible] allowed to reside in the territories of the Chiefs who are parties hereto, their heirs and successors, for the purpose of instructing the people in all useful occupations.

ARTICLE XI.

And in consideration of these engagements all past offences of the Chiefs whose names are hereunto subscribed against the Queen of Great Britain, &c., are hereby forgiven.

Concluded on board Her Majesty's ship "Active," off Sharks' Point in the River Congo, this 27th day of March, A.D., 1876.

Signed by the Contracting Parties.

(Signed) W. N. W. HEWETT, *Commodore, Commanding Her Britannic Majesty's Naval Forces on the West Coast of Africa.*
KING PARKER, his ⋈ mark.
KING ASSAMBA, his ⋈ mark.
KING KALA, his ⋈ mark.
POLO BOLO, his ⋈ mark.
'M. PACA, his ⋈ mark.
NANTUDY, his ⋈ mark.

Witnesses:

(Signed) HENRY C. W. GIBSON, *Secretary to the Commodore.*
E. N. ROLFE, *Lieutenant, H.M.S. "Active."*

No. 2.

THE following Articles to be considered as Additional Articles to our Treaty with Commander Arthur Parry Eardley Wilmot, C.B., R.N., then commanding Her Britannic Majesty's Naval Forces on the West Coast of Africa, dated the 1st June, 1865.—River Congo, March 27, 1876.

ARTICLE I.

In the event of any British or other foreign vessel running aground in any part of the River Congo near to our respective territories, we, the Chiefs whose names are hereunto subscribed, faithfully promise for ourselves, our heirs and successors, that we will in no way allow them to be interfered with under any pretence whatever, unless an application be made to us for assistance; and we do further faithfully promise that immediately we hear of any such vessel being on shore, and in danger, we will communicate the intelligence to the nearest white settler.

ARTICLE II.

Should any British or other foreign vessel, being aground in the river, apply to us for assistance, we, the Chiefs whose names are hereunto subscribed, most faithfully promise to render her individually all the help in our power, provided we are fairly paid for our trouble.

Mark put on copies given to Chiefs to enable them to point out more readily to the N.B. × *master of a vessel in distress the conditions under which they are bound to render assistance.*

Agreed to on board Her Majesty's ship "Active," lying off Sharks' Point, in the River Congo, on the 27th day of March, A.D. 1876, for ourselves and on behalf of Don Joa Franco Antonio, the present King.

(Signed) DOMINGO, his ⋈ mark, *Antonio's brother.*
'M. BAINGO, his ⋈ mark, *Antonio's son.*

In consideratio[illegible] engagements all past offences of the above Chiefs against Her Majest[illegible] at Britain and Ireland, &c., &c., are hereby forgiven.

W. N. W. HEWETT, *Commodore, Commanding Her Britannic Majesty's Ships on the West Coast of Africa. March* 27, 1876.

Witn[illegible]

(Signed) [illegible] C. W. GIBSON, *Secretary to the Commodore.*
[illegible] ROLFE, *Lieutenant, H.M.S. "Active."*

No. 3.

THE following Articles to be considered as Additional Articles to our Treaty with Commodore Arthur Parry Eardley Wilmot, C.B., R.N., then commanding Her Britannic Majesty's Naval Forces on the West Coast of Africa, dated the 6th June, 1865.—River Congo, March 27, 1876.

ARTICLE I.

In the event of any British or other foreign vessel running aground in any part of the River Congo near to our respective territories, we, the Chiefs whose names are hereunto subscribed, faithfully promise for ourselves, our heirs and successors, that we will in no way allow them to be interfered with under any pretence whatever, unless an application be made to us for assistance; and we do further faithfully promise that immediately we hear of any such vessel being on shore, and in danger, we will communicate the intelligence to the nearest white settler.

Mark put on copies given to Chiefs to enable them to point out more readily to the master of a vessel in distress the conditions under which they are bound to render assistance.

N.B.
×

ARTICLE II.

Should any British or other foreign vessel, being aground in the river, apply to us for assistance, we, the Chiefs whose names are hereunto subscribed, most faithfully promise to render her individually all the help in our power, provided we are fairly paid for our trouble.

Agreed to on board Her Majesty's ship "Active," lying off Sharks' Point, in the River Congo, on the 27th day of March, A.D. 1876.

(Signed) KING PLENTY, his ⋈ mark.
KING MEDORA, his ⋈ mark.
CAPETA MEDORA, his ⋈ mark.

In consideration of these engagements all past offences of the above Chiefs against Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, &c., &c., are hereby forgiven.

(Signed) W. N. W. HEWETT, *Commodore, Commanding Her Britannic Majesty's Ships on the West Coast of Africa. March* 27, 1876.

Witnesses:
(Signed) HENRY C. W. GIBSON, *Secretary to the Commodore.*
E. N. ROLFE, *Lieutenant, H.M.S. "Active."*

No. 4.

Treaty with King Anizanza holding authority on the North Bank of the Congo River. River Congo, April 19, 1876.

Engagement between Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, &c., and King Anizanza, for the Abolition of the Traffic in Slaves; for the Prevention of Human Sacrifices; for the Encouragement of Lawful Commerce; for the Protection of all White Traders, more particularly British; and for the Punishment of all Pirates and disturbers of the peace and good order of the River.

LIEUTENANT HENRY CHAPMAN WALKER, commanding Her Britannic Majesty's ship "Foam," and Senior Officer in the Congo, on the part of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, &c., and King Anizanza [illegible] names are hereunto subscribed on the part of himself, his heirs and successors, [illegible] upon the following Articles:—

ARTICLE I.

The export of slaves to foreign countries is for ever abol[illegible] ny territory, and I do pledge myself, my heirs and successors, to engage and [illegible] d proclaim a Law prohibiting any of my dependants, or any person within my ju[illegible] on, from selling or assisting in the sale of any slaves for transportation to a fore[illegible] country, and I hereto promise to inflict a severe punishment on any person who shall break the law.

ARTICLE II.

No European or other person whatever shall be permitted to reside within my territories, or those of my heirs or successors, for the purpose of carrying on in any way the Traffic in slaves; and no houses, stores, or building of any kind whatever, shall be erected for the purpose of the Slave Trade within my territories, or of my heirs or successors; and if any such houses, stores, or buildings, shall at any future time be erected, and I,

CONFIDENTIAL.

Treaties with Congo Chiefs on West Coast of Africa, 1876.

Foreign Office,
August 1876

my heirs or successors, fail or find ourselves unable to destroy them, they may be destroyed by any British officers employed for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

ARTICLE III.

If at any time it shall appear that the Slave Trade has been carried on through or from my territories, the Slave Trade may be put down by force upon those territories, and any British officers may seize my boats, or those of my heirs or successors, found anywhere carrying on the Slave Trade, and I, my heirs or successors, will be subject to Her Britannic Majesty's severe displeasure.

ARTICLE IV.

The subjects of Her Britannic Majesty and all white foreigners may always trade freely with my people, and those of my heirs or successors, in every article they may wish to buy or sell, at any place whatever within my territory, and I for myself, my heirs or successors, pledge myself to show no favour and to give no privilege to the ships and trades of other countries which I do not show to those of Great Britain.

ARTICLE V.

In the event of any British or other foreign vessel running aground in any part of the River Congo near to my territory, I faithfully promise for myself, my heirs and successors, that I will in no way allow them to be interfered with under any pretence whatever, unless an application be made to me for assistance; and I do further faithfully promise that, immediately I hear of any vessel being on shore and in danger, I will communicate the intelligence to the nearest white settler.

ARTICLE VI.

Should any British or other foreign vessel, being aground in the river, apply to me for assistance, I for myself, my heirs and successors, most faithfully promise to render her all the help in my power, provided I am fairly paid for my trouble.

ARTICLE VII.

Should the ships of British or other friendly traders be attacked by pirates or plunderers, I for myself, my heirs and successors, most faithfully promise assistance by sending my people with arms, and to do all in my power to punish the robbers.

ARTICLE VIII.

If at any time a naval officer of Great Britain shall require guides or armed people from myself, my heirs or successors, to accompany the said officer against pirates or other enemies of the Queen of Great Britain, &c., I faithfully promise for myself, my heirs and successors, to provide [them].

ARTICLE IX.

I for myself, my heirs and successors, declare that no human being shall be sacrificed on account of religious or other ceremonies, and that I will prevent the barbarous practice of murdering prisoners in war.

ARTICLE X.

Missionaries or other ministers of the Gospel are to be allowed to reside in my territory, and those of my heirs and successors, for the purpose of instructing the people in all useful occupations.

ARTICLE XI.

And in consideration of these engagements all past offences of Anizanza against the Queen of Great Britain, &c., are hereby forgiven.

Concluded on board Her Majesty's ship "Foam," lying off Point Henderson, in the River Congo, on the 19th April, 1876.

(Signed) (L.S.) HENRY C. WALTER, *Lieutenant, Commanding H.M.S. "Foam."*

ANIZANZA, his ⋈ mark.

Witnesses:

(Signed) H. SANCTUARY, *Navigating Sub-Lieutenant, H.M.S. "Foam."*

ROBT. SPROULE, *Surgeon, H.M.S. "Foam."*

CAPETA, his ⋈ mark.

YOUKA, his ⋈ mark, *Son of Anizanza.*

Source Citation
Treaties, Great Britain and Congo chiefs on West coast of Africa. Vol. 42, [Printed by Harrison and Sons], [1876]. Slavery and Anti-Slavery: A Transnational Archive, link.gale.com/apps/doc/GF0103793002/GDCS?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-GDCS&xid=d216637e&pg=1. Accessed 1 Mar. 2022.

Gale Document Number:GALE|GF0103793002